

III. POPULATION, LAND USE AND TRAFFIC

The factors of population, land use and traffic have a major role in determining the transportation needs of an area. Examination of these factors helps to explain historic travel patterns and is the basis for development of a thoroughfare plan.

Population

The Town of Scotland Neck experienced steady growth in population up to 1960 when the population began to decline. In the periods from 1960-1970 and 1970-1980 the Town's population decreased by 3.5% and 1.2% respectively. Table 1 shows population figures from 1950-1980 and projections to 1990 and 2005 for the Town of Scotland Neck and Scotland Neck Township. Despite the declining trend in population, the projected population of 3200 for Scotland Neck Town in the year 2005 is considered reasonable. The Town is actively seeking new growth opportunities which will improve employment and help to reverse the outward migration trend of the past two decades. Growth is expected to occur after the county-maintained water system begins supplying water to Scotland Neck.

Table 1

Population Trends & Projections for Scotland Neck, N.C.

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2005
Town of Scotland Neck	2,730	2,974	2,869	2,834	3,000	3,200
Scotland Neck Township	5,122	5,699	5,013	4,592	4,800	5,200

Land Use

The generation of traffic is not only proportional to population; it is also related to the manner in which the adjacent land is used. In planning a thoroughfare system, it is important to look at past land use and predict future trends.

Within the Town of Scotland Neck residential land use is dominant and occupies nearly 60% of the developed land. The most recent residential growth areas have been in the northwestern and northeastern quadrants of the Town. A federally funded housing project has recently been constructed at the eastern end of 12th Street just beyond the Town limits. Future residential growth is expected to occur